Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Why do you think God's will is that we "pray continually?" Why are rejoicing and thankfulness important?

Taking It Home

Have you ever had a time where you felt that God was speaking right to you? Describe the situation.

How can you work to make sure that your prayer life isn't just treating God like Santa Claus (give me, give me, give me) but more focused on developing an intimate, abiding relationship with our Father?

How could spending time listening for God's voice (through Scripture, Spirit, sense, or saints) affect some prayers you've been praying regarding the following situations:

- Family struggles
- Past pain you've endured
- Job concerns
- Personal spiritual growth

Sermon Notes

Listening to God in Prayer
1 Kings 19:9b-14

Jessica LaGrone
February 27, 2011

WORDserve
a United Methodist church

WordServe Church. Guiding people to grow as joyful servants of Jesus.

Community Group Study Guide
For the week of February 27, 2011

Getting Started
What is one thing from Sunday's message that you hope we talk about as a group?

Circle the phrases that reflect the perspective(s) you've had of prayer over the course of your life. Explain your choice(s).

- Is there anybody out there?
- My words just bounce off the ceiling.
- Why pray? God's going to do what God's going to do.
- I want to be a passionate pray-er, but I'm not very confident.
- Prayer is a vital and key piece of my relationship with God.

Jessica mentioned four ways that God speaks (Scripture, Spirit, sense, and saints). Which one seems the most natural to "hear" God? Which is hardest? Why?

Digging Deeper
In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus addresses prayer three times. Read these short selections and summarize Jesus' teaching:

- Matthew 5:43-47

- Matthew 6:5-8

- Matthew 7:7-11

Based on these passages, how would Jesus describe the purpose of prayer?

Read James 4:1-3. What role do you think our motives play in prayer?

How might God-centered motives change the things for which people pray?

Read 2 Kings 20:1-6. What do you think caused Hezekiah's prayers to be answered?

Contrast the 2 Kings passage with 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Why do you think Paul's prayer wasn't answered?